

Message Text

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41

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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TAGS: PFOR, SENV, CSCE, FI

SUBJECT: KEKKONEN STATE VISIT: BRIEFING MATERIAL -- BALTIC
SEA COOPERATION

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENTIAL DISCUSSION OF BALTIC SEA
COOPERATION EXPECTED TO BE BRIEF AND STRESS PROGRESS TO
DATE AS EXAPMLE OF BENEFITS THAT CAN BE ACHIEVED BY
INTENSIFIED CONTACTS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT SOCIAL
SYSTEMS ON COMMON PROBLEMS. END SUMMARY.

2. BALTIC SEA COOPERATION APPARENTLY WILL NOT HAVE HIGH
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PRIORITY ON KEKKONEN'S LIST OF DISCUSSION TOPICS. ACTING

CONTROL OFFICER IN MFA FOR KEKKONEN VISIT TOLD POLOFF THAT SUBJECT MIGHT ONLY BE REFERRED TO IN PASSING DEPENDING ON TIME DEVOTED TO OTHER TOPICS. MINISTRY'S MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE LAW OF THE SEA EXPERT, HOLGER ROTKIRCH, WAS NOT EVEN AWARE SUBJECT WAS ON KEKKONEN'S AGENDA BUT GAVE EMBASSY FOLLOWING RUNDOWN OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WILL HELP PUT ANY FINNISH COMMENTS IN CONTEXT.

3. MAJOR CONCRETE ACHIEVEMENT OF BALTIC SEA COOPERATION TO DATE IS CONVENTION ON PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT SIGNED IN MARCH 1974 (74HELSINKI 594). ONLY FINLAND HAS RATIFIED THE CONVENTION SO FAR BUT OTHER SIX SIGNATORIES ARE EXPECTED TO DO SO BY END OF 1977 AND CONVENTION WILL ENTER INTO FORCE TWO MONTHS AFTER DEPOSIT OF LAST RATIFICATION. CONVENTION IS ALREADY OBSERVED IN MOST RESPECTS, HOWEVER, AND ACTIVE PROGRAM OF CONSULTATIONS UNDER ITS AEGIS IS UNDERWAY. CONVENTION'S FINAL RESOLUTION ESTABLISHED AN "INTERIM COMMISSION" WHICH FIRST MET IN AUTUMN 1974 AND AGAIN IN DECEMBER 1974. NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN NOVEMBER 1976. TWO WORKING GROUPS HAVE ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED: A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL WORKING GROUP WHICH MET TWICE IN 1975 AND WILL MEET NEXT THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST 1976 IN HANKO, FINLAND; AND A MARITIME WORKING GROUP WHICH WILL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEPTEMBER 1976 IN STOCKHOLM.

4. ROTKIRCH SAID A MAJOR ACHIEVEMENT OF THE CONVENTION WAS ITS BAN ON DUMPING (THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS BEING "FORCE MAJEURE" AND DREDGING) WHICH IS ALREADY RESPECTED. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT INNOVATION IS THE BAN ON THE USE OF DDT AND PCB'S IN ANY WAY THAT COULD LEAD TO THEIR ENTERING THE BALTIC WATERSHED.

5. ROTKIRCH ALSO REFERRED TO THE BALTIC WATERSHED.

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FISHERIES TREATY OF SEPTEMBER 1973 WHICH IS IN FORCE AND WHICH ESTABLISHED THE BALTIC SEA FISHERIES COMMISSION WHICH MEETS REGULARLY AND IS MAINLY CONCERNED WITH REACHING AGREEMENT ON RULES FOR PRESERVATION OF THE BALTIC FISH STOCK. AN INTERESTING FEATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT IS THAT IT ONLY RECOGNIZES 12 MILE LIMITS AND SEEKS TO ESTABLISH A COMMON REGIME ON THE HIGH SEAS BEYOND THE 12 MILE

LIMIT. IF ANY COUNTRY ASSERTS THE RIGHT TO A WIDER ECONOMIC ZONE THE TREATY IS OPEN TO RENEGOTIATION.

6. ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THE EARLY STAGES IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON RULES FOR PILOTS OF VESSELS IN BALTIC PORTS. A CONFERENCE ON THIS SUBJECT WAS HELD IN WEST GERMANY IN JUNE 1976. STILL IN THE PLANNING STAGE IS A POLISH PROPOSAL FOR A CONFERENCE ON RESCUE AND SALVAGE OPERATIONS WHICH WOULD SUPPLEMENT AND SEEK TO HARMONIZE THE NUMEROUS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS ON THIS SUBJECT.

7. ROTKIRCH STRESSED IN DESCRIBING THESE AGREEMENTS AND MEETINGS THAT THE WORK HAS BEEN ON A FACTUAL AND NON-POLITICAL BASIS, INDEED GOVERNMENTS HAVE WORKED TO AVOID POLITICAL CONFLICTS. HE NOTED THAT THE NEW CONVENTION ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SIGNED AT THE BARCELONA CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY 1976 WHILE NOT GOING AS FAR AS THE BALTIC SEA ENVIRONMENTAL CONVENTION CLEARLY USED IT AS A MODEL.

8. ROTKIRCH THOUGH PRESIDENT KEKKONEN WOULD PLACE THE PRACTICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF BALTIC SEA COOPERATION IN THE CSCE CONTEXT, ALTHOUGH NOTING THAT THE BALTIC COOPERATION PREDATED THE SIGNING OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT. THE BALTIC SEA AGREEMENTS OFFER AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT CAN BE DONE IN THE WAY OF PRACTICAL COOPERATION ON THE COMMON PROBLEMS OF COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERING SOCIAL SYSTEMS.

9. ROTKIRCH MAINTAINED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SORSA'S FEBRUARY 1976 PROPOSALS FOR INVOLVING THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIET UNION IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN NORTHERN EUROPE AND THE BALTIC SEA AREA (HELSINKI 261) WERE UNLIKELY TO BE RAISED BY THE FINNS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO ROTKIRCH SORSA'S PROPOSALS WERE MADE MORE IN THE "NORDIC" CONTEXT, INCLUDING NORWAY WHICH IS ONLY AN OBSERVER IN THE BALTIC COOPERATION MEETINGS.

10. MFA TOLD US RECENTLY OF FINNS' CONCERN THAT US AND CANADIAN CLAIMS TO 200 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE MAY RESULT IN INTENSIFICATION OF SOVIET, POLISH AND GDR FISHING EFFORT IN BALTIC TO DETRIMENT OF FINNISH SMALL BOAT FISHERS. THIS HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED, HOWEVER, AS A SUBJECT THEY WOULD RAISE SPECIFICALLY IN WASHINGTON TALKS.

11. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IF FINNS RAISE BALTIC
SEA MATTERS US RESPOND THAT WE WELCOME COOPERATION
IN APPROPRIATE REGIONAL GROUPINGS TO ACHIEVE PRACTICAL
GOALS OF COMMON CONCERN. IF THE FINNS ALLUDE TO
"SORSA PLAN" FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION -- INVOLVING
USSR AND TWO ALLIES, NEUTRALS FINLAND AND SWEDEN,
PLUS TWO OR THREE NATO COUNTRIES -- US SHOULD BE
CAREFUL TO AVOID ANY IMPLICATION WE ARE DOWNGRADING
US INTEREST IN PLAYING ROLE IN EUROPE OF MAINTAINING
NATO COHESION. AUSTAD

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